

# ILLUSTRATED SPORTING THEATRICAL NEWS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1866.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

VOL. V.—No. 206]

## Athletic Sports.

### THE LIVERPOOL GYMNASIUM—GRAND ASSAULT AT ARMS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHILDREN'S INFIRMARY.

The 19th century tournament, as an eminent clergyman called it, came off with great effect on the 8th inst., notwithstanding the comparatively high scale of admission. Soon after seven o'clock in the evening the visitors began to flock in, and by eight o'clock the splendid hall was filled by some ten or twelve hundred of the elite of Liverpool. A few minutes after eight o'clock the signal was given, and about 100 gymnasts marched into the centre of the hall, each one having in his hand a pole about five feet long, with knobs at each end. They were all dressed in scarlet knickerbockers, white singlet, and a blue sash, and as they stood in position, with their eyes fixed upon Mr. Hulley, the gymnasiarch of the institution, they formed a very picturesque group.

Previous to commencing the performances of the evening Sir John Jones, K.C.B., late President of the Athletic Society, was called upon to preside. The hero of Delhi immediately responded to the call, and in brief sentences addressed the assembly. An institution of that kind he said, he considered to be one of the most useful things that could be established in a commercial town. Every evening the young men of the place had an opportunity of engaging in most beneficial and healthful exercises; more than that, it kept them from other places where not only their health but their morals would be impaired. In the most humorous terms the gallant Chairman reminded the athletes that they would have that evening not only bright but critical eyes looking upon their performance, for he had been given to understand that some members of the Ladies' Class were first-rate athletes, and he added, that it was a subject of regret to him that they were not going to exhibit their skill that evening. (Laughter.)

The gymnasts who then occupied the centre of the hall commenced their performance by going through a variety of movements which brought all their muscles into play; not only were the muscles of the arms brought to the test, but the legs were also brought to play—by the simultaneously out-spreading and drawing together of the feet. This exercise was kept up about seventeen minutes, when the signal to stop was given, and they all dispersed. The next on the programme was a broad sword contest between G. Mitchell and G. Henderson; they set to work in right good earnest, each trying to out do the other, consequently the contest was very eagerly watched. The next was a boxing bout between Messrs. C. M. Thompson and J. Cornforth, and this simply demonstrated that Englishmen of all grades enjoy a good round with the gloves better than the most skillful play with the foils—the fencing was looked at with interest, but the boxing was thoroughly enjoyed by both ladies and gentlemen. The next was a fencing match, between Professor A. Durbee and H. R. Robertson. Of course the Professor had all the best of this bout, still Mr. Robertson would prove himself a worthy opponent to a less skillful swordsman than the Professor. Next followed gymnastic illustrations on the horizontal bar, led by Mr. P. B. Drinkwater. The gymnasts commenced by leaping over the bar, commencing at an easy height, going on till the altitude of the bar was 6 feet 4 inches—a height which most of them cleared with comparative ease. The bar was then raised another foot, and the athletes performed a variety of exercises in very graceful style, especially what is called the "grand circle," in which Mr. W. Nicholson, Mr. A. Goffey, W. D. Hogarth, G. Quillain, and D. G. Keeling, particularly distinguished themselves. There was then a small sword versus bayonet contest, between Professor Durbee and J. B. Lee. The latter a very skillful gymnast, as the medals on his breast testified, wielded the weapon used by the British

soldier with telling effect upon many a battle field, so well that skillful as the Professor is he could not get near his opponent. Great cheers were given by the audience at Mr. Lee's success. Next was the sensation piece of the evening, a boxing match between Mr. James Mace and Mr. W. D. Hogarth. The whole audience went into a state of ecstasies as the renowned Jim, girded with the Silver Champion Belt, showed how he had fought and conquered all comers, and so become the wearer of such a magnificent girle. It was a most wonderful display of science, and quickness of eye, aim, and head, for Jim's head shifted out of the way of his opponent's fist in a most remarkable manner, although Mr. Hogarth succeeded in landing a blow once or twice, much to the satisfaction of the audience. During the sparring there was great applause, and at its conclusion a perfect

round of cheers, with numerous cries for another round, which Jim obliged them with at a subsequent part of the evening. The belt was then shown by Mr. Montague (Mace's secretary) to the gallant chairman, the Rev. N. Loraine, and the ladies and gentlemen who accompanied them. It must have been a source of great satisfaction to the champion the hearty reception he obtained, and that, too, from gentlemen who are holding high positions in a town like Liverpool; and it forcibly reminds one that whatever calling a man may be engaged in, that by conducting himself in a gentlemanly manner, he gains the respect and esteem of those he comes in contact with. Another set-to between H. Taylor and R. T. Parkinson, in which Mr. Taylor had a little the best of it, concluded the first part of the entertainment. After an interval of ten minutes, the audience were addressed by the Rev. Nevison Loraine, who said—

Sir J. Jones, ladies and gentlemen, the object for which the assault at arms is given is one that has a deep place in my sympathies, and in the progress and general influence of this gymnasium I feel so lively an interest, that I cannot withhold the request to address you this evening. My words shall be brief. Gentlemen, by your conduct to-night you have vindicated the opinions which, on more than one occasion, I have ventured to express. So far as the "Assault" has proceeded it has been a most successful display of your skill and strength as gymnasts, and instead of the narrow chest and stooping gait and pallid face which in many cases your sedentary occupations would have produced, we have seen the broad shoulders, erect carriage, lithe limbs, and robust appearance, that display the physical benefits you have derived from this institution (hear, hear), and improved physical health, the general increase of energy, and vital vigour are advantages not to be lightly esteemed. Centuries ago the wise men of Greece said, "Health and good estate of body are above all gold, and a strong body above infinite wealth," but I believe, together with physical advantages, you have been deriving moral improvement. I think it is impossible to see the evening classes at work here without being persuaded of this. There is an aspect of to-night's "tournament" which illustrates and confirms my belief. There belongs to this year's first Assault at Arms in this noble building an especial interest; it seems worthy of the golden days of chivalry, when the gallant Knights of "Arthur, flower of Kings," sworn to loyalty, truth, and honour, tilted in the "fair jousts at Camelot." (Applause.) You, gentlemen, in this year's tournament, have met in friendly rivalry, not to win the smile of "lady fair," to gain honour and renown, but to serve a worthier end, to do a work of magnanimous kindness and of Christian charity, for it is a true principle, bearing many applications—we that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak—(hear, hear)—and indeed there seems to me a kind of poetic fitness and picturesque suitability in you, stout and strong athletes, giving of your ample and even overflowing strength to succour the weak and weary children of sickness and poverty. (Hear, hear.) I see before me to-night a noble sight in your vigorous health and muscular energy, and if I mistake not, this large assemblage also must have been greatly gratified; but before the inner sight of, I am persuaded, very many of us, there has been a yet nobler vision. We have seen clasped in each pair of strong arms a little suffering child resting its weary head upon a broad, brave breast, and the pallid, upturned face glowing with smiles of gratified content towards its benefactor. (Applause.) Gentlemen, this is really the work you are doing to-night, in effect, as truly as though done before our eyes in fact; and upon yourselves, gentlemen, I must think your generosity will return in time through better influences. No man stoops over suffering to relieve it without receiving more than he gives; one kind deed does become a wellspring of future kindness; acts of benevolence are the golden links by which men bind their souls to better things; good deeds, like the dove from the Ark, return with the olive branch of peace and promise. I sincerely trust that this may be the first of many athletic displays in this noble



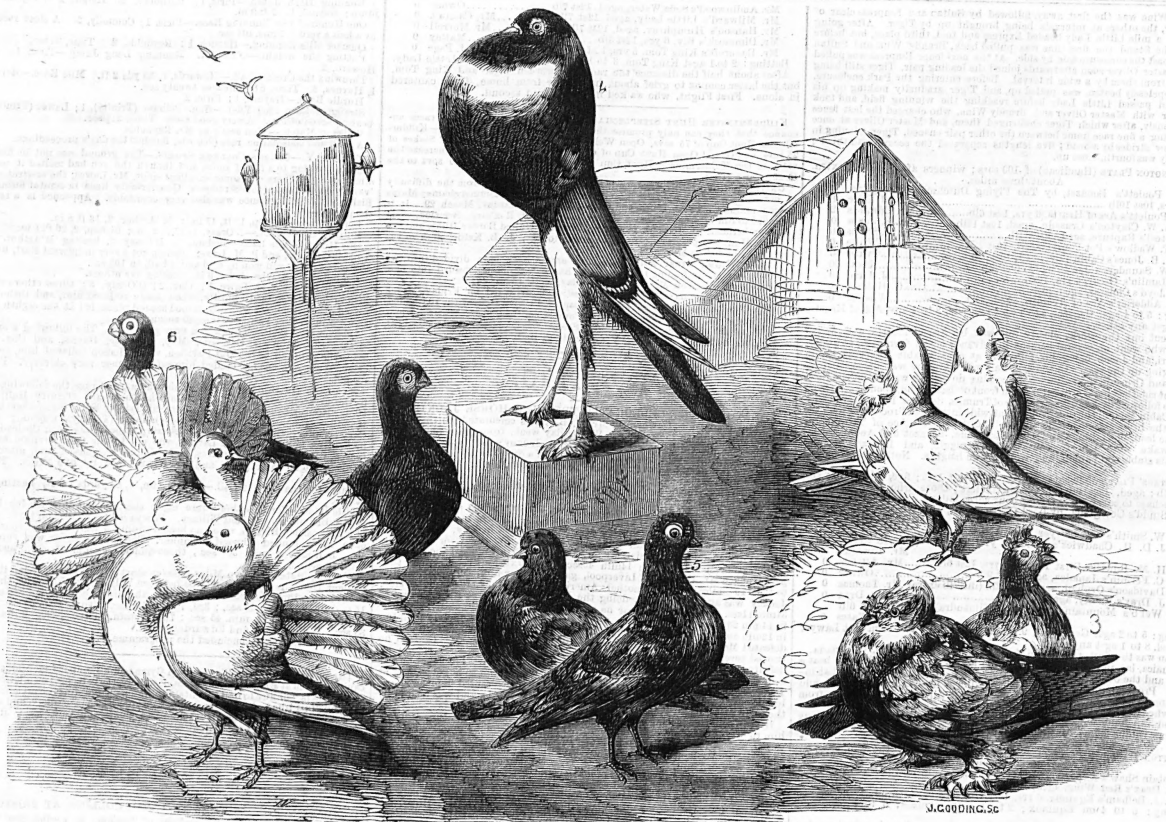
J. L. TOOLE, the Celebrated Comedian of Her Majesty's Theatre Royal "Adolphus."

(Continued on page 83.)









FANCY PIGEONS, as exhibited at Messrs Fitzgerald and Mansfield's.

**SHOOTING.****BARNSELEY AND DISTRICT.**

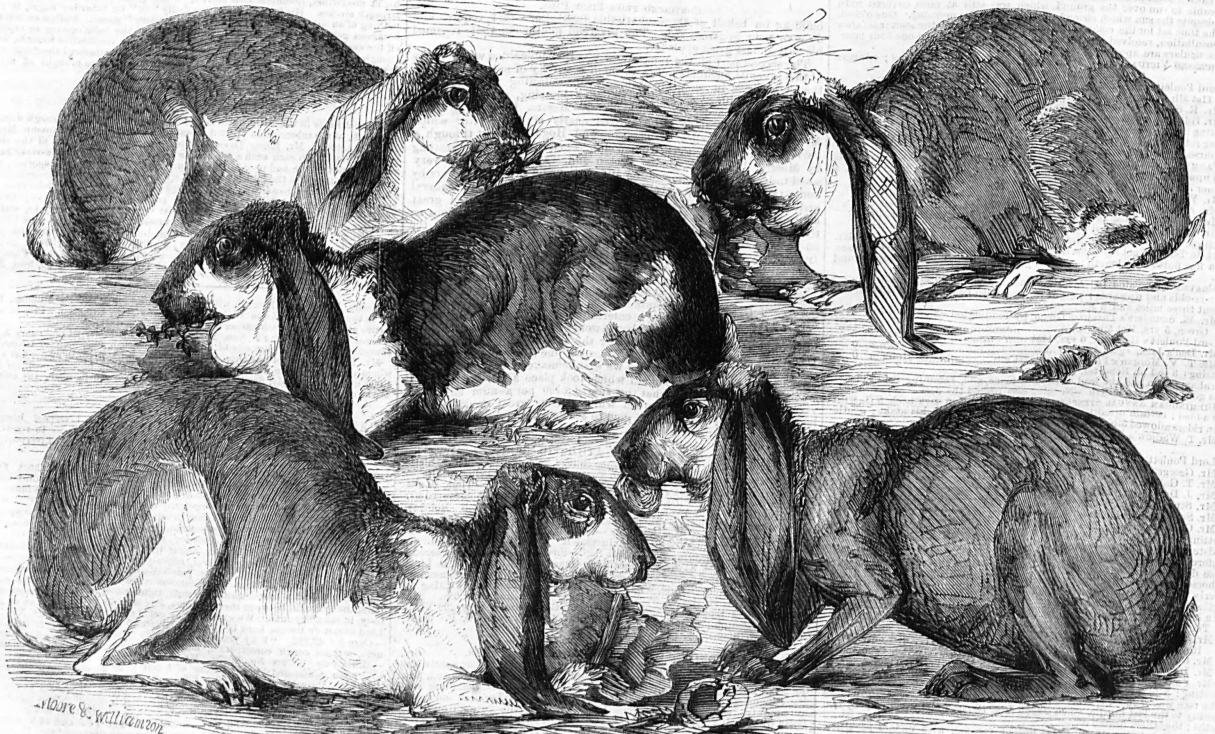
On Saturday last Mr. B. Morris and Jas. Bennett met at Hazle Head, Thurlston, near Barnsley, to shoot off their match for £10 a side at three birds each, 13oz shot, in the presence of a good number of the sporting public. The friends of Bennett, however, declined to go

beyond the money down (£2), probably thinking that he had not the least chance, as Morris is a "crack shot." They finally agreed, after a noisy discussion, to shoot for the money deposited, when Morris killed all his birds in good style, but Bennett failed to secure one. Trapper, Mr. G. Hoiling; stakeholder, Mr. Mitchell, and referee Mr. E. Harley.

On the same day a shooting match for £2, at 3 birds each, 21 yards rise, came off at Mr. D. Taylor's, the Mason's Arms, Mappelowell, near Barnsley, between Walter Truelove and Thomas Denton, both natives. The weather was very boisterous, but there was a good attendance,

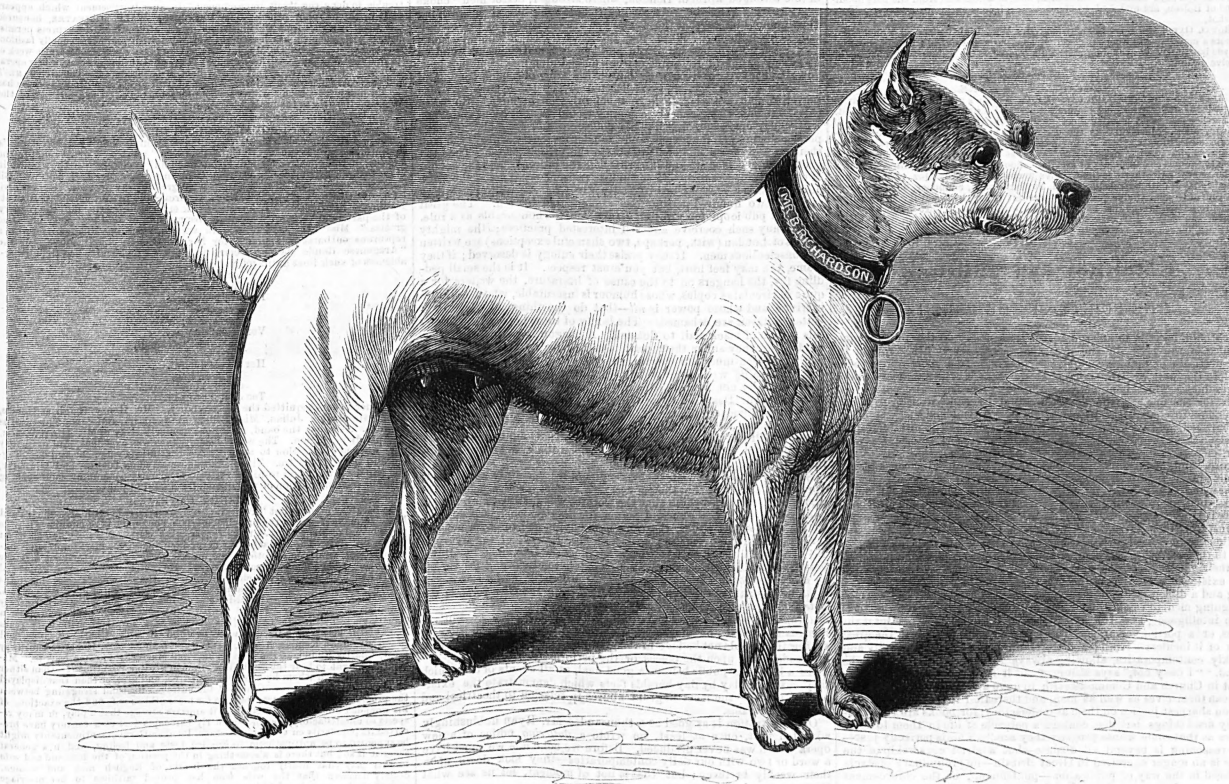
and a good sum was invested on the result amongst those present. Denton killed all his birds and was hailed the winner, Truelove only killing 2 out of the birds allowed him.

On Monday, the weather being very favourable, a good number of the lovers of the deadly tube repaired to the village of Mappelowell, near Barnsley, the event being a shooting match for £5, and between Willis a Roberts and Thomas Leger, both of Mappelowell, at three birds each, 13 oz. shot. The men killed one bird each and agreed to draw. 6 to 4 was offered on the birds at each shot and was taken freely. The birds were very small and the wind rather high.



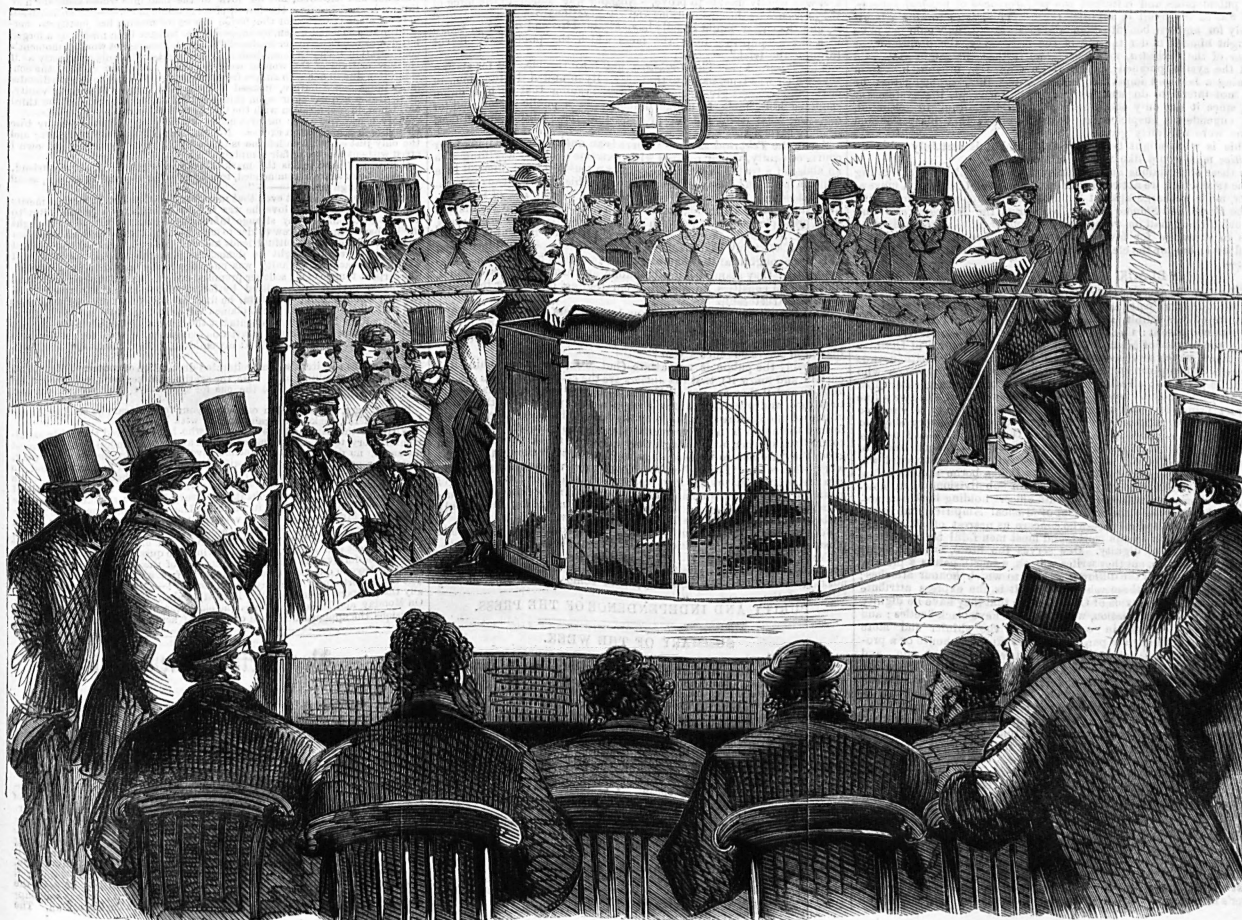
GREAT RABBIT SHOW OF THE NEW WEST LONDON SOCIETY.





"HOPPING CLARA,"

The celebrated Ratler Champion, the property of Mr. William Richardson, Blue Anchor, Church-street, Shoreditch.—(For Full account see another Page.)



THE GREAT RAT MATCH.—Mr. C. Mansfield seconding T. W. O. Newton, Esq.'s celebrated "Sting."

THEATRE ROYAL (Manager, Mr. Belton : DIRECTOR, Mrs. Belton).—This generation drama, "London by Night," which is the best known of the "Secrets of London," was played for the last time this season on Friday evening. Mrs. B. Ellis played Chizler, so as to evoke the warmest plaudits; he was recalled at the end of the first scene. Mr. F. Fuller, as the Bantler Hoodlum, was called up to receive the applause of the audience. The interesting part of Paul Featherston took nothing in the hands of Mr. R. C. Palmer, is being a really good impersonation. Mr. C. Lobbett, as Mark Livingston, did nothing to be desired in his speech on the "Poor of London," was well supported by Mr. Wilson, as Purty, who need only say that he was the wife and son of the various characters. The play was well supported by Mrs. Williams, as Mrs. Purty, and Miss Annie Taylor, as Paul. The

London drama," "London by Night," or as it is better known, the "Streets of London," was played for the last time this season, on Friday evening. Mr. F. Ellis played Chizzler, so as to evoke the warmest plaudits; he was recalled at the end of the fire scene. Mr. F. Fuller, as the Banker Bloodgood, was another idealism of the week. The interesting part of Paul Fairbank's lost nothing scene, the speech of Mr. R. A. Creamer, being a really good imitation. Mr. C. Lobban, as Mr. Livingston, did nothing to be desired; his speech on the "Poor of London," was well delivered. As for Mr. Watson, as Puffy, we need only say that he was the wife and soul of the various scenes in which he appeared; he was well-appeared by Mrs. Williams, as Mrs. Puffy, and Miss Annie Taylor, as Dan. The







DEER-STALKING.—“A Day in the Mountains.”

## CRICKET.

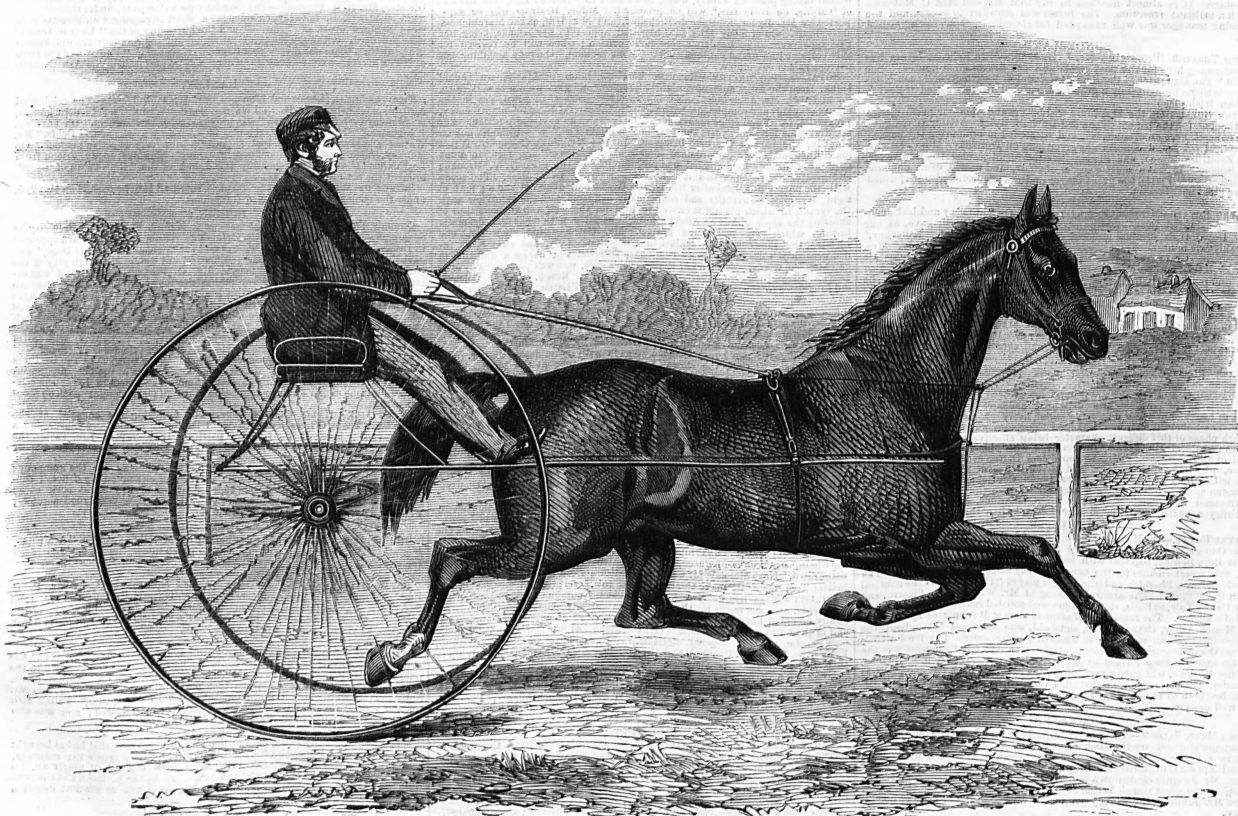
### COUNTY CRICKET AND CRICKET CLUBS.

The most important question in county cricket is the qualification necessary to enable a player to play for this or that county. Theoretically a man should play for one county, and one only; but practically this is impossible. The narrowest possible limitation is to admit the tentative claim of birth or residence; but this again is only practicable for professionals. The claims of amateurs must rest on a

much wider basis. Birth is a casual and most insufficient qualification for them; for it is the merest chance if a gentleman is born in the county with which his family is connected. If that event came off in May, June or July, it was probably in London; if in August, at the sea-side; if in the autumn, at the country shooting quarters; and if in the winter, on the continent, perhaps, or at Torquay, or at some place which the son and heir will not again re-visit for fifty years, may be. Then, as to residence—nine-tenths of gentlemen-players are young men with no status of their own at all; and with only a derived right from the position of their parents. And their parents, in many cases, may have two or three residences in different counties,

and may spend a part of the year at each; and it would be ridiculous to say that their sons had not a good right to play for any one of those counties—the claim that is valid for one being exactly identical for the other. This case is so common that a score of instances will at once occur to any one acquainted with the cricketing world; and no objection to any such claim (for no matter how many counties) can be admitted, until a general rule has been agreed to by cricketers on this subject.

Such a rule could only take one form, however—that of prohibiting a player from playing for more than one county in *one season*; for, of course, no attempt to fix for life a gentleman connected with



“JACKEY,” the Celebrated Trotter (who died aged 33 years), the Property of Mr. C. Eastein.—(See Account in another Page.)

M.W





SPORTS OF THE SEASON.—HUNTING—No. 5.—"A BLANK DRAW."

several counties to one of them exclusively would be tolerated for a moment.

I am disposed to think that this would be an advantageous arrangement; for one thing, it would settle the pretensions of some counties that exist only on whom heaven sends them at the last moment from their neighbour's camp—a kind of waif-and-stray cricket, in fact, which is eminently unsatisfactory. Indeed, I very much doubt whether a good many of the newly-established county clubs will be able to maintain their position. Cricket is so brought to every man's door now-a-days, that one may have as many matches as one wants without going any distance for them. In Sussex you may play every

day in the week, from May to October, without ever going more than twenty miles, and more than that, you meet pleasant fellows, and get good luncheons—two agreeables often wanting in matches of greater pretension. A three-days' match is a most wearisome thing, and no words can describe the melancholy with which one puts in an appearance on the morning of the third day.

Besides county and local clubs, there are an immense number of miscellaneous clubs, to some or other of which most amateurs belong. Nine-tenths of these are ridiculous absurdities, set up with no purpose or object whatever, except that there are always some silly people who would belong to anything that enabled them to wear a new ribbon

and a coloured shirt (and such colours), where tawdry yellow strives with dirty red, green, blue, like the bits of glass in a kaleidoscope; and there are other silly people who like the empty titles of President and Captain—Presidents of nothing, and Captains of nobodies.

Such are the "Stop-and-fetch-its," "Variegated Annals," "X. Y. Z.," "Butterflies," "Grasshoppers," and a dozen of other mushroom clubs of uncouth name. They pass through a sort of spasmodic existence of two or three seasons, and are then consigned, with their founders, to oblivion. I went once to play against a club of polysyllabic name, having been told that it would be an excellent match, and that our antagonists would be men of more than ordinary



SPORTS OF THE SEASON.—HUNTING—No. 6.—"FULL VIEW"







# HARRY CUSTANCE, THE CELEBRATED LIGHT-WEIGHT JOCKEY.

(See accompanying Portrait.)

## THE WINNING PERFORMANCES OF HARRY CUSTANCE IN 1865.

To the biographies of "self-made men" might be added that of Henry Custance, who made his first appearance as a jockey in 1857, and within the short space of three years afterwards reached the highest pinnacle of his profession. Custance, acknowledged to be one of the most accomplished horsemen of the age, was born at Peterborough, February 28, 1842, as the novelists say, "of poor but honest parents." Mr. Mellish was the first to take notice of our hero, in the days when the "blue and white hoops" of that gentleman were carrying all before them on Huntingdon, Tame Deer, and several other horses of merit. Custance had his first public mount on Woodmire in the Fycheley Stakes at Northampton, at 4st 7lb, when he finished fourth, the animal he rode being the property of Mr. G. Angell, who was at that period confederate with Mr. Mellish.

Custance's great promise soon became the talk of Epsom, and in the stable he was a general favourite, under the playful name of "Tyke," from his unsophisticated manners and rural demeanour. In fact, the boy

and humour, and we scarcely know of his equal in detailing an anecdote or "chaffing" an adversary. And his courage is on a par, whether in the hunting-field or in protecting himself by the "manly art," in which he is an effective proficient.

A perfect "don" at billiards, also, he is quite the "admirable Orlinton" of his profession, and having always jealously guarded his character, the public have the greatest confidence in him, and he is held in general esteem by the owners of horses. We ourselves can vouch for his civility and gentlemanly good feeling in every relation of his arduous pursuits. It is generally admitted that we have scarcely his superior as a horseman on the Turf—perfect in all the essentials of his calling, with fine seat, strength, temper, "hands," and the rare knowledge of pace. During the past season he had 189 mounts, season, and was successful in the Two Year Old Stakes on Qui Vive, beating a large field; at Chelmsford he won the Abbots' Stakes with Kangaroo; and at the same meet ran a dead heat for the Essex Stakes with Lytham, the same horse winning the Croxeth Park Plate the following week in his hands. His next victorious mount was at Newmarket, in the Craven week, on Mazeppa, in a two-year-old plate, and with the same animal at the Epsom Spring Meeting he carried off the Two Year Old Stakes, the winner being very heavily backed; he also won the Durdans Stakes with Lytham.

His next essay in the saddle was a Newmarket, in the Two

owner laying odds of 5 to 2 on him to a large sum, there was a general rush to get on, but many good judges followed Custance, and accepted 100 to 30 pretty freely, for Ely looked the picture of health, and, as it turned out, the extra distance suited him, for he won in a canter.

At Herpenden he won the Trial Stakes and a handicap plate with Epsom Summer Meeting he won a dead-heat with Boleno; and at starting at 6 to 1, the Epsom Four Year Old Stakes with Gownsmen, Janitor. In the Derby, Custance rode King Charming, and in the successful meeting for Custance, as he won no less than seven races, commencing with the Eleventh Ascot Triennial Stakes on Ely, the hill Stakes on Gardvieu, a Plate of 100 sovs with Harcourt, the New Biennial Stakes with Jack o' Lantern, and the Twelfth Ascot Triennial Stakes on Broomielaw; but all these successes, although important, pale before his victory on Ely over General Peel for the Gold Cup after their memorable dead-heat. General Peel was a great favourite at 7 to 4, while 6 to 1 about Ely could be obtained up to the flag falling, and even in the run-off, 7 to 4 was freely laid on "the General," so that the followers of Custance and Ely must have had a good time of it. He rode a masterly race also in the Alexandra Plate



THE WINNING JOCKEYS OF 1865.—No. 4.—HARRY CUSTANCE, the Light-weight.

was so little father to the man that few would have believed the light-weight in gaiters and jacket would ultimately have become, among his brethren, the best authority on the niceties of dress. Walter Darrell, the great Turf tailor, has been heard to declare that "Cussey" is one of his most tasteful patrons. After a series of minor successes, Custance first distinguished himself by winning the Cesarewitch with Rocket in 1858, which at once established his reputation among the leading jockeys of the day. In 1859, having been engaged by Mr. Merry, he rode Thormanby, the winner of the Derby, which was the culmination of his early career, and his success in that memorable race created a great sensation from his youth and the great ability he displayed. Since then he has constantly been before the public, and his name is now identified with those of Ely, Fairwater, Lord Lyon, and some of our greatest modern celebrities.

Many stories might be told of Custance's generosity and good-heartedness, and it will always be remembered of him that, immediately after Rocket won the Cesarewitch, he posted off the main bulk of his presents and winnings to his parents at Peterborough, while his hand is always open as the day to the call of charity. He possesses great natural ability, which was manifested at a very early age, when he undertook to furnish a contemporary with the return of a race meeting at which he rode, and performed his literary task with so much accuracy and ability, that Mr. Mellish always considers he would have been an ornament to sporting journalism. He possesses great spirit

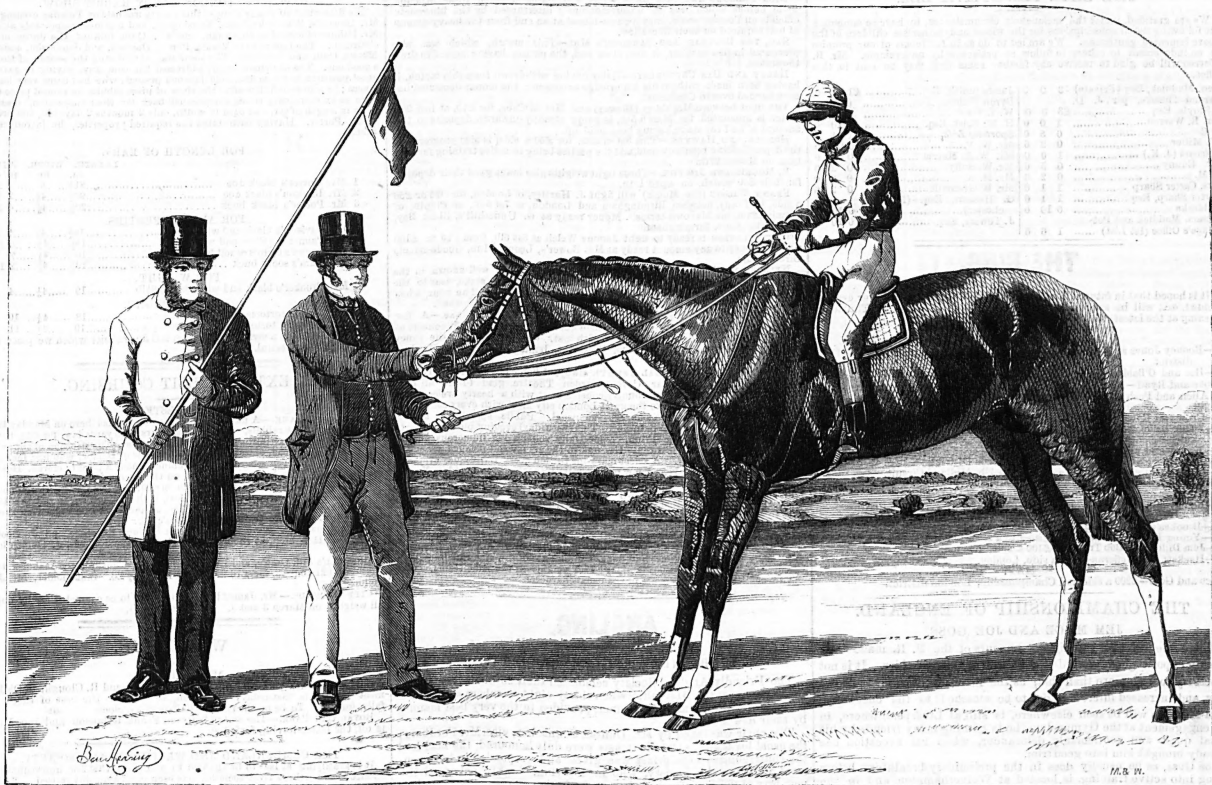
Thousands, on Broadbalt, but he did not obtain a "situation," finishing fifth, a length in the rear of Zambesi; his next mount on Lytham was a winning one, as he beat The Warrior who started a hot favourite, in a £100 plate, over the Rowley Mile. At Chester, he won the Dee Stakes with Broomielaw, and but for his magnificent riding that the greatest skill and determination were required to keep him from bolting. This was Broomielaw's first appearance in public, and more than ordinary interest was felt in his success or defeat, as it would materially affect the position of his stable companion, Broadbalt, in the Derby quotations, and the great satisfaction expressed by his owner, Mr. Henry Chaplin, on seeing the "rose" jacket carried triumphantly past the chair is easily understood.

Custance rode at the Paris Spring Meeting, but was not successful, finishing second to Le Mandarin, with H. Grimshaw in the saddle, on Monitor, in the Prix de l'Empereur; but two days later, at York, he won the Knave's Plate (his only mount at the meeting) on Roderick Random, starting at 5 to 1, and upsetting a great favourite in The Lion, on whom odds of 5 to 4 were laid. At Bath, he won the Lansdowne Trial Stakes with Lytham, and on the following day he achieved a great triumph by winning the Beaufort Cup with Ely, turning the tables on Cambuscan, who had defeated him at the Newmarket Craven at the same weights. On this form it was considered by many to be a certainty for the son of Newminster, and the noble

on Streford, and was only defeated by a short head by Fille de l'Air. At Hampton he won the Claremont Stakes with Tina, and his great popularity was crinied by the immense enthusiasm of the Cockneys as he returned to weigh-in after winning the Queen's Guinea with old Caller On. His next winning mount was at the Newmarket July Meeting on Troublesome; with the same animal at Stamford he also won the Scoury Handicap, and at Nottingham July Meeting with King Hal he won the Robin Hood Stakes, and walked over for the Rufford Abbey Stakes. At Goodwood, he won a sweepstakes with Troublesome and White Duck, and he finished second in the Goodwood Stakes on Scamander. With Ely he increased his fame by winning the Goodwood and Brighton Cups, defeating such celebrities as Cambuscan, Eltham, General Peel, Breeze, and Caller On. At Huntingdon, he won the Trial Stakes with The Warrior, the Reading Stakes, at Reading, on Qui Vive, and, at Stock on, the Claret Stakes with Ely.

At the York August Meeting, he was indulged with three bloodless victories by walking over for the Three Year Old Produce Stakes with Broomielaw, the Burgundy Stakes and York Cup with Ely. His next winning mount was at Doncaster, where he won the Parkhill Stakes with White Duck; and at Newmarket First October, with Broadbalt, he won the Seventeenth Triennial Produce Stakes, the same animal the Troy Stakes with another victory at the Second October. He won the Troy Stakes with Lord Lyon, a sweepstakes with Cesarewitch, a





SPORTS OF THE SEASON—STEEPLECHASING—No. 6.—"LEFT AT THE POST."

match for £300 with White Duck, and at the Houghton Meeting Lord Lyon in his hands won the Criterion in a canter. He won on Tromblon and Lanoret, and thus concluded the racing season; but at Donnington Park Hunt Meeting, as a guest of the Marquis of Hastings, he distinguished himself by winning a couple of small events in such style as to stamp him as a resolute cross-country rider, fully qualifying him for a mount in the Liverpool Grand National.

His most important victories during 1865 were the Dee Stakes at Chester with Broomielaw, the Beaufort, Ascot, Goodwood, Brighton, and York Cups with Ely, the Prince of Wales Stakes at Ascot with Breadalbane, the Troy and the Criterion Stakes at Newmarket with Lord Lyon, and there is every probability of his being entrained with the horse in the Derby, so that the backers of Lord Lyon will have nothing to fear as to the want of skill or integrity of the jockey.

## RABBIT COURISING.

### BARNESLEY AND DISTRICT.

THE RABBIT COURISING FOR A SILVER CUP.—On Monday the 5th inst., the preliminary ties for a rabbit courising sweepstake were run at Mapplewell, near Barnsley, when Mr. Ibbison of the Cricketers' Inn, offered a silver cup to be courised for, value £15, with £1 10s. for second and third. On Monday last the running of the final heats was announced and a good number of people attended, when it was found that no rabbits could be procured, and instead of putting off the running the promoter offered to pay 13s. 6d. to the dogs who were successful in the first ties on the 5th inst., as follows:—Driver's Luce,

Spencer's Spot, Lorrimore's Nut, Lex's Smoker, Thopam's Spark, Turbo's Dolour, Broadhead's Fly, Lax's Watch, Hampshire's Wallace, and Charlesworth's Fan.

FEEDING SILKWORMS ON OAK LEAVES.—The silk husbandry societies in France have, for the last three or four years, paid great attention to the breed of worms which feed on oak leaves, and the result is reported as satisfactory. The breed has been propagated with great success in several departments. It is announced that a joint-stock company is about to be organised on a large scale for extending the breed of this silkworm, which comes opportunely to replace the old silkworm, whose destruction by disease has for the last ten or fifteen years caused so much distress and suffering in the silk producing departments in France.—*The Farmer.*



HOW THE RACE WAS WON.







Printed and Published for the Proprietors by J. CANTER, at  
the Office, 162, Fleet-street, in the City of London.